

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/608,196

To summarize the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nakayama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,818,236, hereinafter "Nakayama") in view of Takiguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,268,566, hereinafter "Takiguchi"). Further, claims 4 and 10 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicant responds to the outstanding rejections and objections as follows.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Nakayama in view of Takiguchi, Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection and submits that the Examiner has failed to establish *prima facie* obviousness.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner relies on Nakayama to teach the claimed plurality of first wires, the plurality of second wires, and the first insulative sheet. However, the Examiner concedes that Nakayama fails to disclose the claimed wiring member which holds both of the first electric wires and the second electric wires.

In order to compensate for this deficiency in the teachings of Nakayama, the Examiner relies on Takiguchi. Takiguchi teaches an electric wire holder for laterally arranging a plurality of electric wires in a duct of a motor vehicle. As taught by Takiguchi, when a plurality of wires of a wiring harness, which is installed in an air duct of a motor vehicle, are arranged in a bundle, the flow of air through the air duct may be restricted by the bundle of wires. (*see* Takiguchi at

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/608,196

col. 1, lines 29-46). Thus, Takiguchi teaches a wire holder which retains a single group of wires laterally.

However, Takiguchi fails to teach a wiring member which holds *both* first electric wires and second electric wires, as claimed. As recited in claim 1, the first electric wires and the second electric wires intersect, and an insulative sheet is disposed between the first wire group and the second wire group. Takiguchi, by contrast, merely teaches a wire holder for a arranging a *single group* of wires of a wire harness, which would otherwise be in a bundle and thereby occupy an enlarged arranging space. (*see* Takaguchi at col. 1, line 39-46). Takiguchi says nothing about a wire holder for two groups of wires, nor does Takiguchi provide any teaching or suggestion in Takiguchi for a wire member which holds groups of intersecting wires. Clearly, there is no teaching or suggestion in Takiguchi for a wire member which holds *both* of the first electric wires and the second electric wires, as claimed.

Thus, even assuming the motivation to combine Nakayama and Takiguchi is proper, the combination fails to teach or suggest all the claim limitations. As discussed above, the combination at least fails to teach the wire member which holds both the first wires and electric wires.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 1 is improper and requests it be withdrawn. Also, because claims 2-3 and 5-9 depend from claim 1, Applicant submits these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1, and requests the withdrawal of these rejections as well.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/608,196

In addition, Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of dependent claim 9, which recites an electrical junction box. In rejecting claim 9, the Examiner analogizes the connector housing (10) of Nakayama to the claimed casing body of the electrical junction box. However, the Examiner fails to account for the limitation that the circuitry assembly of claim 1 is accommodated *in the casing body*. As shown in Figure 3 and discussed at col. 3, lines 39-42 of Nakayama, the connector housing merely receives branch conductors 9a. Thus, the connector housing does not accommodate the circuit assembly recited by claim 1 within, as required by claim 9. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 9 is requested.

Accordingly, allowance of pending claims 1-10 is requested.

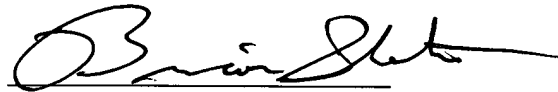
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/608,196

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Respectfully submitted,



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